

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2239

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4174

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL COMPLICATIONS

REF: A) PEKING 1901; B) TAIPEI 4151

1. I AM APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE SERIOUS DAMAGE THE BICENTENNIAL BLUNDER IS GOING TO DO TO OUR RELATIONS HERE, ESPECIALLY WITH JUST THOSE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE MUST WORK MOST CLOSELY.

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM REDXA THAT "US BICENTENNIAL WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL", IN WHICH PRC INVITED PARTICIPATE, IS OFFICIALLY SPONSORED EVENT, WE APPEAR TO BE ENTERING AREA OF MULTIPLE AMBIGUITIES ALMOST CERTAIN TO RESULT IN INJURED FEELINGS ON ALL SIDES. GROC ALREADY FEELS ITSELF ILL-USED BY WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATIONS (REF B), AND IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT DISINVITATION (INVOLVING QUESTIONS OF FACE, TREATMENT OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY) IS GOING TO BE DISCUSSED AT LEVEL OF PREMIER, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW FACT THAT A CABINET LEVEL BODY HAS BEEN CREATED AND PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE SOME STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TOWARD CONTAINING THE PROBLEM BY NOT APPLYING TOO RIGOROUS DEFINITION OF WHAT IS "QUASI-OFFICIAL" AND
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WHAT IS LOCALLY-SPONSORED. KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE ARE

NUMEROUS EVENTS IN WHICH THEY CAN PARTICIPATE (AND IT WOULD BE BEST TO DRAW UP A LIST OF SUCH EVENTS) WOULD EASE GROG SENSE OF INJURY AT LEAST SOMEWHAT. ASIDE FROM SORELY WOUNDED PRIDE, GOVT HERE PROBABLY FEELS THAT MAJORITY OF NON-OFFICIAL INVITATIONS WOULD GO TO PRC -- AS WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL HAS ALREADY. ANOTHER MEANS OF REDUCING BITTERNESS OF REACTION HERE MIGHT BE TO INTERPRET AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE POINT ABOUT DIPLOMATIC CORPS PARTICIPATION.

4. AS STATED LAST PARA TAIPEI 4089, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION WE HAVE NOW TAKEN. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL ALSO HAVE I BEEN GIVEN SOME PREPARATION FOR THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM BY BEING INFORMED IN WASHINGTON OF THE FACT OF OUR TWICE-OFFERED OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO THE GROG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BICENTENNIAL.

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